

DOE Weekly Field Memo – July 29, 2009

From the Department of Education:

- State Fiscal Stabilization Funds Awarded to Vermont
- LNV Upgrade of August 2009
- Changes in Regional Support for the Vermont Educational Surrogate Parent Program (VESPP) and Vermont Homeless Children & Youth Project (VHCYP) for FY 2010
- Update on Special Education Funding Formula Projections for FY-2010
- National Board Certified Teacher Program Placed on Hold
- Survey of Educational Personnel Diversity

From the Agency of Human Services:

- AHS Abuse Registry Checking Application for Adult Abuse and Child Protection Registries

State Fiscal Stabilization Funds Awarded to Vermont

Audience: All

Vermont has been awarded \$77,150,071 to allocate to school districts over fiscal years 2010 and 2011 as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act State Fiscal Stabilization Fund. Please be advised these funds are not additional funds, but will be disbursed as part of education spending as approved in district budgets. Guidance on how school districts may apply for their share of funds will be forthcoming. This file has estimated amounts school districts will receive in ARRA funding to support education spending for FY2010, representing the first half of ARRA funding. For a complete update visit

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/recovery_act.html#estimates.

Contact: Rae Ann Knopf at (802) 828-0555 or rae.knopf@state.vt.us or Brad James at (802) 828-0471 or brad.james@state.vt.us

LNV Upgrade of August 2009

Audience: All

The Learning Network of VT (LNV) is a school-based video-conferencing system that supports school-to-school collaborations, virtual field trips, distance learning opportunities and access to meetings/trainings for staff members. The LNV upgrade of August 2009 will bring increased capacity and stability of the video conferencing network for participating schools. The upgrade is twofold: 1. Hardware updates to the head-end infrastructure in Montpelier; 2. Provision of new Polycom hardware (cameras, monitors) for active LNV sites using cameras from the previous ILN system.

The LNV will be offline for the month of August while these changes are implemented. While Title IID funds are being used to complete this upgrade, those funds have a limitation. In this first phase, priority is being given to schools that have been active on the system for the past two years. A possible second phase may address those schools with older cameras and a desire to take part in the LNV activities. The old cameras from the ILN (older model Polycoms) will not be supported by the LNV system after September 1, 2009. A more detailed letter can be found at

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_edtech.html#lnv_upgrade.

Contact: Arlyn Bruccoli at (802) 828-0223 or arlyn.bruccoli@state.vt.us or Peter Drescher at (802) 828-5149 or peter.drescher@state.vt.us

Changes in Regional Support for the Vermont Educational Surrogate Parent Program (VESPP) and Vermont Homeless Children & Youth Project (VHCYP) for FY 2010

Audience: Special Education Directors

VESPP and VHCYP are realigning regions along Supervisory Union lines for FY 2010 to better reflect support needs statewide. The link below lists which regional coordinator will be supporting which supervisory unions. Please note that due to the nature of this work and in the best interests of an individual student there will be exceptions. You will be advised by a Regional Coordinator when those situations arise. View the list at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_homeless.html#regional.

Contact: Mike Mulcahy at (802) 828-5108 or mike.mulcahy@state.vt.us.

Update on Special Education Funding Formula Projections for FY-2010

Audience: Superintendents, Special Education Administrators, Business Managers

During the last legislative session, the amount appropriated for the FY2010 for the State Special Education Funding formula was level-funded from FY2009. However, the K-12 special education costs based on the FY2010 Service Plan increased by 3.8 percent over the estimated costs for FY2009. The Legislature was counting on the fact that additional funds – namely IDEA-B ARRA funds – are available to school districts to help offset the increased cost of special education. This means that the calculation will be based on a 60 percent State share, and that the Special Education Expenditures Reimbursement rate will be set to create the 60 percent State share. For the full letter and attachments visit <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/data/spedfunding.html#2010>.

Contact: Margaret Schelley at (802) 828-5119 or margaret.schelley@state.vt.us.

National Board Certified Teacher Program Placed on Hold

Audience: All Educators

Certification is a voluntary process established by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). Certification is achieved through a rigorous performance-based assessment process that takes between one to three years to complete. Due to statewide budget and staff reductions, this program has been placed on hold. It will be reinstated when resources improve. NOTE: If you are already in the process of receiving your stipend, that will continue until your three years have been met. Likewise, if you have already submitted your portfolio and taken the tests, and are awaiting approval, the award will be honored for your three years. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Contact: Marta Cambra, Director of Educator Quality, at (802) 828-6543 or marta.cambra@state.vt.us.

Survey of Educational Personnel Diversity

Audience: Superintendents, Human Resource Officers

The Vermont Research Partnership, an organization of researchers including members from the Department of Education, Vermont Superintendents Association, Vermont Principals Association, Vermont School Boards Association and the Agency of Human Services, has created a survey on the diversity of school personnel and recruitment practices. The goal is to use this data to inform future policy development and practice for the state.

While the Department of Education is not requiring the collection of these data, Commissioner Vilaseca strongly encourages all superintendents to respond directly or through your human resources office. The survey is relatively brief and can be completed without the need for extensive research. No one who responds will be identified by name or in any way in any reports of the survey results. Visit

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=piefuOhu1evdW1fkZvNw4Q_3d_3d.

Contact: Bud Meyers at Bud.Meyers@uvm.edu

From the Agency of Human Services:

AHS Abuse Registry Checking Application for Adult Abuse and Child Protection Registries

Audience: Superintendents, Headmasters of Recognized or Approved Independent Schools

The Vermont Agency of Human Services (AHS) has developed an online system to streamline employment reviews against the Vermont Adult Abuse and Child Protection Registries. They recently sent out registration packets to school districts with detailed instructions about how to use the new system to request Adult Abuse and Child Protection Registry checks and receive results electronically. This new automated, secure system will assist superintendents and headmasters of recognized or approved independent schools in complying with the recently enacted S.13 requiring background checks on all new hires, student teachers or contractors that may have unsupervised contact with children. As a reminder, the intent of this application is NOT to replace the VCIC criminal background checks already being conducted on new hires but rather to assist users in requesting the additional abuse registry checks required by S.13.

The text of the pertinent Act can be found on the State Legislature Web site at

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/2010/Acts/ACT001.pdf>. Be advised that you would be prudent to have your legal counsel review this new legislation so they can answer any questions you may have regarding your obligation under this new law.

AHS Contact: Wendy Magee at (802) 241-2639 or wmagee@vdh.state.vt.us

Weekly Field Memo is Online!

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html. Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.